

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05038 101711Z  
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 /041 W

-----101724Z 125347 /47

R 101418Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3899  
USIA WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5038

E.9.11652: GDS  
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, GE, US  
SUBJECT: US/GDR CULTURAL RELATIONS

REF: A) BERLIN 7303; B) STATE 303516

1. DURING RECEPTION WEEK OF JANUARY 3, MFA CULTURAL CHIEF MERKEL TOLD CHARGE THAT US PROPOSALS FOR CULTURAL PROGRAMS MADE DECEMBER 17 BY PAO ALEXANDER ( REFTEL A) WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GDR. MAERKEL ADDED THAT US COULD BEGIN PLANNING IN GREATER DETAIL, IF IT WISHED. HE ADDED THAT THE GDR WOULD BE PRESENTING ITS SUGGESTIONS FOR 1977, PROBABLY AFTER RETURN OF PAO FROM HOME LEAVE.

2. MERKEL'S COMMENTS APPEAR TO GIVE US THE GREEN LIGHT, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SOMEWHAT VAGUE ABOUT WHEN THE GDR WOULD PRESENT ITS PROPOSALS AND WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HORSE TRADING BACK AND FORTH. BASED ON MERKEL'S COMMENTS WE WOULD HOPE THAT PAO ALEXANDER WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP DETAILED PLANS FOR THE FILM RETROSPECTIVE AND OUR OTHER PROPOSALS FOR MORE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE GDR OFFICIALS  
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05038 101711Z

UPON HIS RETURN.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH PARAGRAPH 3 D OF REFTEL B, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT A SMALL MUSICAL GROUP, RATHER THAN A DANCE GROUP, WOULD BE BETTER AS A START FOR THE GDR. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT DANCE IS NOT WELL DEVELOPED HERE, EXCEPT FOR BALLET, AND THAT THE

PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCE WE MIGHT REACH WOULD BE FAIRLY SMALL.  
WE THINK A WELL-KNOWN MUSICAL GROUP WOULD DO US MORE  
GOOD, AND WOULD REACH A GREATER AUDIENCE HERE. WHILE WE  
WOULD NOT WISH TO SET A PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE IN TERMS  
OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR OTHER US GROUPS , THE  
EMBASSY'S VIEW IS THAT THE FIRST GROUP SHOULD BE A FULLY  
SPONSORED ONE. WE THINK THIS WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT  
FOR THE GDR TO REJECT A GROUP OF OUR CHOOSING AND SHOULD  
GIVE US A GREATER VOICE IN THE PROGRAMMING FOR IT,  
INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES, CITIES, HALLS, ETC.  
WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S AND USIA'S VIEWS  
ON THIS MATTER AFTER THEY HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
CONSULT WITH ALEXANDER.  
POLANSKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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